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# FOCUS on the FALLS

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🌿 SPRING 2016 Issue 🌿

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## Join Us for the FOMF Annual Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop

March 26, 2016 - 8:45 am to 1:15 pm  
Kennedy School

### AGENDA

- 8:45-9:15 - Breakfast Buffet
- 9:15-9:30 - Workshop Begins
- 9:30-9:40 - Welcome - Sharon Quade, FOMF President
- 9:40-10:20 - Kathleen Overton - History of Vista House
- 10:25-10:50 - ODOT - Starvation Creek development
- 10:50-11:05 - Break
- 11:05-11:20 - Peg Willis - The Bus Tour - May 14th
- 11:25-12:25 - Forest Service - Beth Kennedy & Matt Ramich
- 12:20-1:00: Training issues - Carl & Kathy Collins
- 1:05: Announcements, Q&A & Closing: Carl Collins

### VOLUNTEER BUS TOUR

May 14, 2016 - 8:15 am

Peg Willis Guide

Cost - \$20 for Volunteers, \$30 guests

8:15 - Bus Arrives at Troutdale Factory Stores

8:30 - Depart Troutdale - **on time!**

Peg Willis, author of "Building the Columbia River Highway - They Said it Couldn't Be Done" - will lead the tour from Troutdale through the Columbia River Gorge to The Dalles - telling historic tales throughout the trip. You'll see "Waterfall Alley" and will be stopping at many important locations such as Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint, Vista House at Crown Point State Park, Multnomah Falls and on to Mitchell Point and Rowena Twin Tunnels - and MORE!

4:00 - Returning to Troutdale



### SHERRARD POINT by James M. Olsen

Occasionally a visitor will ask a FOMF volunteer to suggest a good, easily reached viewpoint to see Mt. Hood. One spot for an excellent view is Sherrard Point on Larch Mountain at 4,056 feet in elevation.

Sherrard Point may be reached by driving a total distance of 24 miles, on both the Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway (for 9 miles) and the paved Larch Mtn. Scenic Corridor ( for 15 miles ): or hiking 7 miles on the Larch Mtn. trail, beginning at Multnomah Falls. Our handout maps show the way.

At the end of the drive is the Larch Mn. picnic area parking lot. The \$5 parking fee may be paid at the trailhead fee station there. A National Forest Recreation Pass will work also. The unmarked, paved 2/10 mi. trail to Sherrard Point originates just to the left of the fee station. Sherrard Point is not wheelchair accessible.

After a pleasant stroll, you start a climb up 99 steps made of railroad ties with no hand rail: then 23 paved stair steps with handrails. Finally, you are "On Top of The World, Looking Down On Creation", while standing on a fence-enclosed platform. There is Mt. Hood, commanding one's attention, but there is so much landscape to take in like a "Space Needle" experience. The Sherrard Point Viewpoint opened to visitors as a recreation site about 1968 according to Columbia River Gorge NSA historian Marge Dryden.

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# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

**Friends of Multnomah Falls  
SPRING Issue 2016**

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

**Newsletter Editor &  
Website Administrator**

Teresa Kasner

## Board of Directors 2016

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Dollie Rasmussen  
Lynn Rasmussen  
Charlie White

Matt Ramich  
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Rick Buck (Ex-Officio)  
Multnomah Falls Lodge Co.

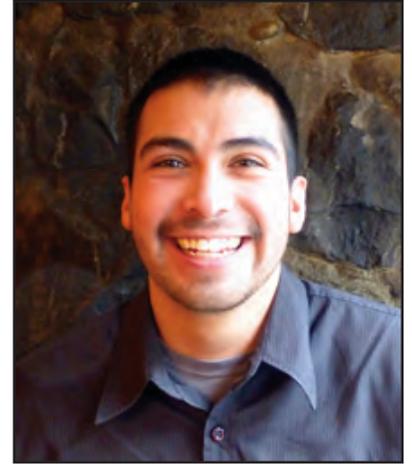
### Our Mission Statement:

*"The Friends of Multnomah Falls are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the unique natural, scenic and historic qualities of Multnomah Falls while providing a memorable experience for our visitors."*

## USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT - by Matt Ramich

Well hey there everyone!!

Happy 2016 to you all!! This is your on-site manager, Mr. Matt Ramich, talking to you in the New Year. We closed off 2015 with some pretty treacherous weather conditions. We had high winds blowing down trees, above average precipitation causing landslides, as well as snow and ice making trails and roads not easily navigable. All of these weather activities have done quite a number on the various trails throughout the Gorge. Luckily we have had some great volunteers and volunteer groups go out periodically to make trails passable and cut down the amount of work the Forest Service trail crew will have to do in the Spring.



I want to give a great amount of thanks to our own Forest Service volunteers: Terry Hill, Ken Snell, Roger Buss, Larry Fishman, and Dan Tennant. They have been out there either on their own or with other Gorge trail organizations hard at work cutting up trees, clearing landslides, and informing visitors about the conditions. The Forest Service and I can't express enough how great this "Team of Tactical Trail Technicians" has been for us and the great number of visitors who seek adventure in the Gorge. Keep up the great work team!!

Of course, the Friends of Multnomah Falls have done a great job as well giving out information left and right during times of high visitation. I greatly appreciate the work everyone in the Friends has done and I hope this continues into the year 2016.

Before I close out, just wanted to let everyone know that we now have a new sign a little past shady creek bridge stating conditions on the bridge and the trails could be icy. Dave Mysinger set this plan in motion and it was installed a week or so before Christmas. This is very helpful for visitors, so that they realize this place can be a little unsafe and to use caution. Hopefully people will heed the words of this sign and not find themselves lying on the ground. Thank you Dave for seeing this project to its completion.

That's about it!! Keep up the good work and may Multnomah Falls keep spirits high as well as inspire our visitors.

## FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Sharon Quade

Happy New Year everyone - and thank you for returning for another year to volunteer. Your inspiring dedication and commitments are admired by all. Your hard work affects more than you realize! A warm welcome for those of you who are returning to serve on 2016 Board and especially to our new board members, John Buddeau and Lynn Rasmussen.



Sharon Quade & Smoky Bear by Ron Goodwin

Special applause to Twila Mysinger for developing and keeping an inventory of all brochures that we hand out to visitors. Did you know that she regularly places orders to make sure we always have a good supply on hand? She has done this job successfully for several years. Thank you Twila!

Looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop on March 26, 2016.

# FIXING FALLS FACTS - by Charlie White

For many years, we volunteers have been saying that Multnomah Falls is the second highest year round falls in the United States. When asked the inevitable question, "What's first?" we have been saying Fairy Falls in Mount Rainier National Park. But in fact Rainier's Fairy Falls is not a year round falls. Actually, in most years it is either dry or a mere trickle in late summer.

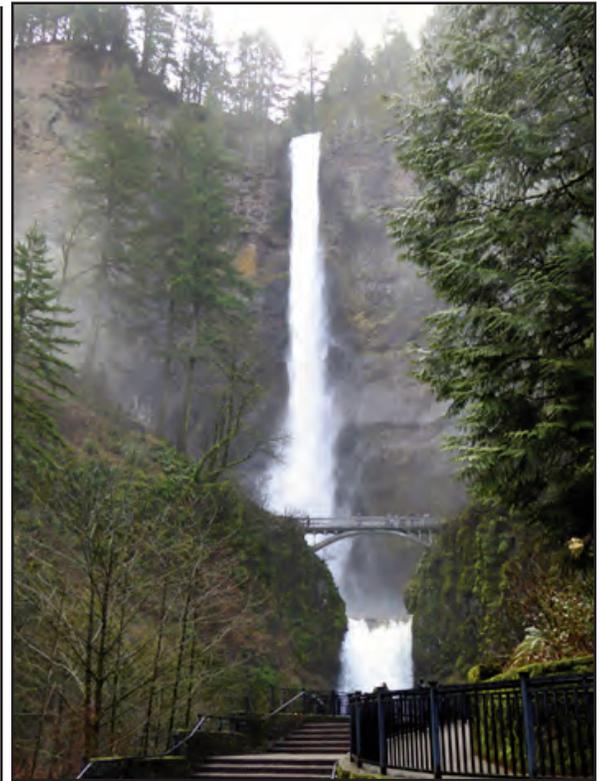
The World Almanac, using as its source the National Geographic Society, has always had Multnomah listed as the highest falls in the United States without an asterisk - with the asterisk denoting "diminishes greatly seasonally." So we are absolutely accurate if we say "Multnomah Falls is the highest year-round falls in the United States." Inasmuch as the Forest Service and many other sources have said Fairy Falls is 700 feet high (which it is) without pointing out it is not year-round, we don't have to apologize for misleading so many tourists. As one volunteer said, "The sign says information, it doesn't say correct information."

The Almanac also has a double asterisk classification meaning "reduces to a trickle or dry for part of each year." Every falls in Yosemite that is higher (and there are several) than Multnomah has a double asterisk. Yosemite's Bridal Veil Falls on Cascade Creek (it's the first view of tourists entering the Park as they come out of a tunnel on California Highway 41 - a glorious sight) is the only Yosemite falls with a single asterisk. Bridal Veil is listed as 620 feet high in the Almanac, although Wikipedia says 617 feet.

Other trivia facts about falls: At average flow, more water goes over Niagara in 9 hours than over Multnomah in a year. Multnomah annual average flow is 4,730,040,000 gallons. A Salem tourist told me Willamette Falls was second only to Niagara in volume. In fact it is 6th. Kettle Falls on the Columbia ranks 4th.

Other height and flow comparisons:

- ✿ Multnomah is 65 feet higher than the Washington Monument.
- ✿ Multnomah is 12 feet higher than the Battleship Arizona is long.
- ✿ Multnomah is as high as two football fields are long, plus 2/3 of an end zone of one of the two.
- ✿ Multnomah is approximately four times higher than Niagara.
- ✿ The Saint Louis Arch is twelve feet higher than Multnomah.
- ✿ Angels Falls, Venezuela (an asterisk in the Almanac), is a bit over five times higher than Multnomah.
- ✿ It would take Multnomah Falls about ten hours to fill the lock at Bonneville.



Multnomah Falls in January 2016 by Teresa Kasner

## NEW MEMBER THANK YOU'S!

Thank you to the 3 NEW members and one returning Charter member listed below.

- ✿ Bonnie Bowker
- ✿ Howie Rubin
- ✿ Gracie Saylor
- ✿ Roberta Mills (a Charter Member of FOMF)

If you are not a current member, won't you please take the time to print up, fill out and send in the membership form below? You will help support the FOMF to accomplish many valuable activities such as providing the map handouts in the visitors center, training workshops for the volunteers, etc.

## FRIENDS OF MULTNOMAH FALLS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I would like to become a Member       Renewing Member

FOMF is a 100% volunteer, private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Check a box to select your level of membership:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Family       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Lifetime  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing |   |   |

Make checks payable to: Friends of Multnomah Falls, and fill out the information below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

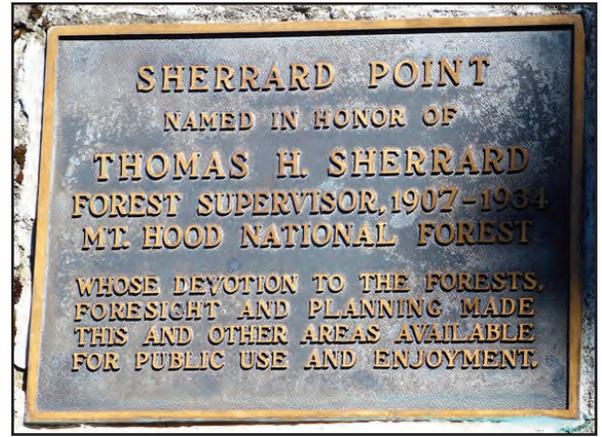
Please send this application to: The Friends of Multnomah Falls, PO Box 426, Troutdale, Oregon 97060

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Camp Robbers- aka Gray Jays will demand attention; high-speed Vaux's Swifts put on an air show in early summer; motionless Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures may hover on the updrafts.

Mts. Hood, Jefferson, St.Helens, Rainier and Adams are identified with elevations and distances engraved on concrete slabs. Much of the Bull Run Watershed, Portland's water source, lies below. Mt. Hood's westside glaciers, Reid and Sandy stand out, snow white and wrinkled.

Sherrard Point is named in honor of Mt. Hood Forest Supervisor Thomas H. Sherrard who served 1907-1934. The Oregon Journal January 23, 1941 editorial comment noted his passing the previous day:



"Thomas Herrick Sherrard devoted his life to forestry from his student days in Yale to his death, Wednesday. He was in the Forest Service when it was formed as a division of the Interior Department and was there as Gifford Pinchot's first assistant. He saw forestry grow from idea to science. With him trees were important, but not all. He was fascinated by the flowers of the mountains. He was a leader in developing the recreational program of the Forest Service. He had much to do with the creation of the Bull Run reserve for Portland's water supply. His happiness was greatest on the trail, under the sun or stars. Thus he will be remembered. "

Sources: Oregon Journal, accessed through the good services of the Oregon Historical Society  
Words and Music- On Top of the World: by R. Carpenter, J. Bettis

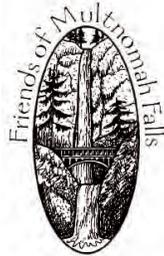
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## FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

Anyone showing interest in becoming a volunteer should contact Chris Meinicke, at [chris.meinicke@frontier.com](mailto:chris.meinicke@frontier.com) or phone 503-645-3124. Our volunteers enjoy a flexible schedule and lots of fun training opportunities! We have the Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop in March, a Bus Tour in the Columbia River Gorge in the Spring, a complimentary Sternwheeler Cruise and Mt. Hood Railroad trip in June, the Volunteer Picnic in July and the Annual Meeting in November! If you've ever thought of giving it a try, we'd love to have you on the FOMF team!

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the FALLS**

**Teresa Kasner, Editor  
PO Box 426  
Troutdale OR 97060**



Please send an e-mail to Teresa Kasner [Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org](mailto:Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org) if you want to receive future newsletters via PDF attached to an email - to save printing and postage for FOMF.